

INFORMATION FROM

REPORT

CD NO.

DATE OF INFORMATION 1949

DATE DIST. *12* Aug 1949

NO. OF PAGES 2

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

LANGUAGE Russian

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SOURCE Ogonek, No 15, 1949.

V. A. Protodyakonov

Railroads, transport, and communications are developing. During the years of Soviet power, the waterways have doubled in extent, the river fleet has expanded 10-fold, and hundreds of kilometers of automobile roads, which are usable the year round, have been built.

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Housing has increased 6-fold, and in 1949 important construction was begun for communal housing and civic improvements in the city of Yakutsk. Particular success has been achieved in the building of social and cultural institutions. Before the revolution, the republic had 38 medical institutions with a total personnel of 50, 173 schools and 274 teachers. Tuberculosis, trachoma and other diseases were widespread. Only 2 percent of the population was literate. The republic now has 837 medical institutions, more than 2,000 medical workers and 616 schools having more than 60,000 students and 3,000 teachers. It has 15 technical schools and special secondary schools, pedagogical and normal institutes. Yakutiya is now a completely literate republic. More than 350 young Yakuts are studying in the higher educational institutions of Central Russia.

There are 579 cultural and educational institutions in the Yakut ASSR. The Yakutsk Theater of Drama and Music, the Russian Theater and the kolkhoz theaters are performing with success. Works by Lenin, Stalin, Marx and Engels have been printed in the Yakut language, as well as some of the best Russian classics. Yakut writers and artists are coming to the fore.

In 1947, the Academy of Sciences USSR established a scientific and research base in Yakutiya; it is now training young native scientists.

Scores of young people, sons and daughters of former illiterate nomads have received BS degrees during the last few years and the time is not far off when many Yakuts will be professors and PhD's.

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